

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

St John, the Evangelist, Bromley Cross, St Columba's, Tonge Moor
and St Brendan's, Harwood

20 June 2021

Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

Often, when reading scripture, a word or a phrase stands out from the text and demands further examination. This is the way scripture speaks to us, sometimes the word touches on our thoughts or strikes us as been relevant to something happening in our lives. A phrase from Saint Paul's second letter to the Corinthians had that effect when I read it and so I share it with you. *"The love of God overwhelms us"*. We do not usually speak of being "overwhelmed", it is one of those words which describes a powerful action, sometimes "overwhelming" has a destructive connotation as though we are swept away by a powerful force. In Paul's letter however, it simply reminds us that the love of God is so powerful, so strong, that nothing can stand against it. How can we understand how one man's sacrifice two thousand years ago has this effect on our lives today? Is it because we judge with today's standards using our own human experience? There are many aspects of faith that we struggle with, many passages of scripture that do not make sense to our human minds but then make perfect sense when seen through the eyes of faith. The miracles that are recorded in the Gospels, for example, seem beyond belief. That a man's eyes and ears can be opened with a touch, that someone could be cured of leprosy or that a man can be raised from the dead! It all seems impossible to the imperfect human mind, but we are dealing here with something perfect, the love of God, and with God everything is possible. Our First reading and the Gospel speak of the power of the sea. If you live in a coastal community, you appreciate more fully the dangers of the storm, its brutal power that takes away your strength and fills you with fear. When a sleeping Jesus is awakened, He not only stills the raging waters he also stills the fear in the hearts of His companions. That stillness is also His gift to us, when the storms of life threaten to drown us, we need only to call to Him and the overwhelming love of God will be there to calm the waters and free us, too, from the fear that surrounds us. We only need to believe, truly, in that love, freely given. **David Frank**

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello

Parish Office: St John's Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP.

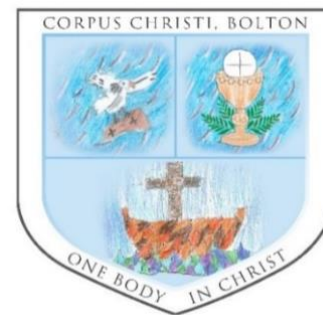
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Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 4

Job 3:1.8-11

2 Corinthians 5: 14-17

Mark 4: 35-41

Sunday 20 June

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Special Collection for Day for Life

Monday 21 June - St Aloysius Gonzaga

7pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 22 June - Ss John Fisher & Thomas

More

9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 23 June

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 24 June - The Nativity of St John the Baptist

9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 25 June

No Mass Today

Saturday 26 June

11am Exposition & Adoration followed by Benediction (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Mass (SB)

Special Collection for

Sunday 27 June

Peter's Pence

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

1.30pm Baptism (SJ)

Eco Thought of the Week



In our first reading God asks Job: Who pent up the sea behind closed doors, when it leapt tumultuous out of the womb, when I wrapped it in a robe of mist and made black clouds its swaddling bands; when I marked the bounds it was not to cross and made it fast with a bolted gate? Come thus far, I said, and no farther, here your proud waves shall break. *God is Creator and Lord of Creation. Can we harness the mighty power of the elements for the common good? How do we ensure our energy sources are natural and sustainable?*

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends: Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt, Peter Riley

Lately Dead: Elizabeth Riley, Paddy Ruddy, Michael Watson, Michael Creswell, Jodie Settle, David Badley, Frank Murphy, Christopher Moore,

Anniversaries: Dennis O'Toole, Fr Cornelius Sheahan

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Daniel Broadbent, For a successful operation, Paddy Ruddy, Ernie Peacock, Michael Watson, Michael Creswell, Wilfred Cooney & Family, In Thanksgiving, Dennis O'Toole, The Late Gladys & John Hall, A special intention

Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6): We pray especially for: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution; oppression and denial of human rights; Europe, seafarers, human life

Hope in the Future:

Let us pray for the parish of St Joseph, Todmorden, for Fr Peter McGiveron, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school. May they know the presence of the Lord, even in the storms of life.

Offertory: We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Donations can be made by posting through the presbytery letter box, by post or alternatively they can be made through Salford Diocese website, or by setting up a bank standing order. Thank you

Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**. Thank you

Prayer Resource - For those at home the Liturgy Office has prepared "*The Lord's Day at Home*", to pray on your own or with your family [LDAH](#)



First Holy Communion: At last, after numerous postponements through various lockdowns, I'm hoping that our year 4 children can celebrate their First Holy Communion over the next few weeks. Please keep the children of our three schools in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Lord for the first time. *Fr Alf*



Destitution Project: Thank you for all donations that have been coming in - they really do make a difference. We continue to collect the usual items: tinned tomatoes, tinned chickpeas/red kidney beans, rice, cooking oil, sardines, tea, coffee, long-life milk, tinned fruit & corned beef, cartons of orange juice etc.

SVP Sponsored Walk: Our Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) has been holding sponsored walks for many years. The money raised is used to support vulnerable and needy families in our parish over the Christmas period.

This year we are asking participants to take the time to walk around the Entwistle, Wayoh or Jumbles reservoirs sometime during the month of July. This could be done on your own or as part of a group. It would be lovely to see some families joining the walk. Last year we received over £3,500 in donations! Please support this fundraiser by walking, sharing and/or donating. You can still donate in person if you prefer to your local church. A crowdfunding page has been set up for any donations:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/svp-walk-2021>



Notice for all Harbour Room Book Club Members: Please pencil in your diaries: **Wednesday 14 July, 1pm in the Harbour Room** for a get-together to assess where

we are and future plans. This meeting will take place (hopefully) outside on the lawn using the chairs available. Bottled water will be provided and disposable cups. Schedules for the next season will also be available. This get-together is subject to Government plans and last-minute cancellation if something urgent arises (Funeral etc). Please pass the word around if you know someone who does not have access to the newsletter. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. *Madeleine*

Laudato Si Focus Group: As part of the Diocese of Salford's work to establish the Laudato Si Centre, we are conducting research to hear the opinions of the local community. The purpose of this is to ask if you would like to take part in a focus group to better guide our plans. We are asking because it is important to understand how local parishes can work with us to respond and educate about the climate crisis [Please click here to sign up](#)

Caring for our Common Home: Thank you for your help to date, we need your help further: Thank you to all our parishes that have been taking action to care for our common home. We would like your help on another opportunity. We are exploring funding opportunities for tree planting, solar panels and electric vehicle charging across the Diocese. To help we would like to collate expressions of interest, which we will then review alongside any funding opportunities. We would like to ask a nominated individual to complete an online form per church in each parish by the end of June. The form can be accessed [here](#).

The Green Church Showcase: The Green Church Showcase is looking for inspiring church initiatives to protect and preserve the planet. We are inviting churches, church schools, dioceses, and Christian groups of any denomination to submit details of work that they have undertaken to combat climate change, protect nature, and involve their communities in making changes. [Click here to visit the Church Times website for more information.](#)

Retreat for Married Couples: The organisers of the online prayer resource *Pray As You Go*, in partnership with the Westminster Diocese's Marriage and Family Life Team, offer an Audio Retreat for Married Couples. It uses as its base ingredients scripture, the Ignatian tradition and other Christian insights to provide a simple recipe, which you can then enjoy blending together to make a tasty, exciting and balanced meal to feed your marriage. Further information can be found [here](#)

Salford Interfaith Forum: Faith in the Environment: Is an online conference examining the response of faith communities to the climate crisis, the event will take place on Wednesday, 23 June (6.30- 8pm). Bishop John will be speaking at the event alongside, Andrea Passe from Eco Synagogue and the Board of Deputies and Zahid Hussain a Manchester City Councillor and Community Activist.

[Click here for more information.](#)
[To book a place for the event, please click here](#)

Greater Manchester Churches Together Job Vacancy: GMCT are recruiting for a Churches Together Facilitator.

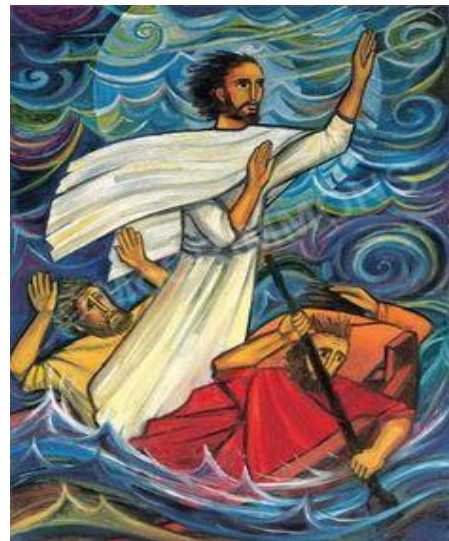
[Click here for the job description.](#)
 Click here for the [application form](#), and the [person specification document](#).

Caritas Job Vacancy: Caritas is looking to hire a bank counsellor to provide a counselling and family support service in schools across the Diocese of Salford. The position will require working with pupils referred to the Caritas Schools' Service on a variety of issues, providing a non-judgmental, caring and confidential environment for them to work through their problems and difficulties. [For more information on the position, please click here.](#)

Christian Heritage Centre Event - Faith & Reason A Catholic Integration (5-8 August): A short, residential course. For more information <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/faith-and-reason/> or bookings@christianheritagecentre.com


Oberammergau Passion Play
 The Parish visit to Oberammergau has been rescheduled and will now take place 15-22 June 2022. Our visit to Oberammergau is combined with time among the lakes and majestic mountains of Austria. A few places remain, so if you are interested in the trip, additional information and booking forms are available from Mary Cropper (01204 596439) and Ann Gracie (01204 302912)

R	T	S	S	O	R	C	S	D	O	EVENING	CROSS	CROWD
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"Who can this be? Even the wind and sea obey him!"

This Newsletter is sponsored by
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Day for Life: is the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition.

The theme for the 2021 *Day for Life*, celebrated in England and Wales on **Sunday 20 June**, centres on caring for the sick and dying and promoting the respect owed to life in all its vulnerability.

Global pandemic

The fragility of life and the reality of death have been brought into sharp focus during the Covid-19

pandemic. In the UK alone, more than 126,000 people have died from Covid-19. Each of these lives is precious and every life matters. Behind each statistic there is a person, with a family, with friends, with a story, with a life of infinite value and worth. Each death has rightly been mourned as a tragedy. This tragedy has been further compounded by the inability to be physically present with loved ones at the end of their life, due to the restrictions of the pandemic. The pain of this separation and the preciousness of a loved one's final moments has been keenly felt by many.

Yet against this bleak backdrop of suffering and separation, we have witnessed the extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying. Their presence at the side of a dying loved one has been a source of comfort and consolation for many grieving families. As a nation, we have celebrated the care and commitment of those on the front lines during this pandemic. We too have each played a part in tackling this pandemic through our collective effort and sacrifice to 'stay home and save lives.' These acts of heroic love are a powerful testimony to the fundamental dignity of the human person and to the respect owed to each life, particularly through proper care and love in the last moments of life.

Assisted Suicide

However, once again, this gift of life in all its beauty and fragility now faces a profound challenge through attempts to legalise 'assisted suicide.' That legislation which proposes hastening death is now being seriously contemplated, is deeply alarming following a year of pandemic which has caused the untimely deaths of millions around the world.

Assisted suicide, as Pope Francis reminds us, is a "false compassion" and its remedy is one of true compassion, a patient *suffering with* the vulnerable, sick and dying. A "true compassion," he says, is "the just response to the immense value of the sick person." This is a compassion which finds expression in treating the dying person with love, with dignity and by making use of appropriate palliative care. Life is a gift to be valued until its last breath and countless people have witnessed to this holistic vision of dying, encompassing the relational, spiritual, emotional and physical dimensions of a person and their family.

We ask all Catholics to pray for a culture where life, in all its vulnerability, is cherished and to work to promote authentic compassion in the treatment of those who are sick or dying.

This pandemic has shown us just how much we value life as a society. Please help us to build on this and fight against the legalisation of assisted suicide by donating to Day for Life. Your donations will support the work of pro-life organisations as they seek to promote and protect life from conception until its natural death. You can donate to Day for Life here. <https://www.dayforlife.org/home/about/>